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EDU 310

Week 4 – What Do You Think? How Do You Think?

The Behaviorist perspective (**Behaviorists**) are those who see learning from a behaviorist perspective, viewing all behavior as a stimulus-response cycle in which behavior is a response to external stimuli.

The Cognitivist Perspective (**Cognitivists**) see learning as a mental operation that takes place when information enters through the senses, undergoes mental manipulation, is stored, and is finally used. Cognitivists consider mental activity (cognition) as the primary source of study.

The Constructivist Perspective (**Constructivists**) see knowledge as a constructed element resulting from the learning process. They theorize that knowledge is unique to the individual who constructs it.

Constructivism is at present one of the most influential forces in shaping contemporary education. Notable constructivists include Jean Piaget and Seymour Paper, who adapted Piaget's perspective and applied it to children engaged in using technology.

Throughout my courses in the education program, I have realized I witness pros and cons in all theories. I believe that learning is unique to an individual and no two students are the same. Although laborious and time consuming, assessing each student is a necessity. Individualism is why I think most students do not do well on testing. For example, I personally have testing anxiety. Days before a test, I will have panic attacks, and have even gotten physically sick during an exam. My test scores should not reflect my overall ability to learn or comprehend a subject.

In some subjects, I am a visual learning and in others subjects I learn best by doing (kinesthetic). In technology, I definitely learn more by doing and trying to figure things out on my own. Learning is a complex process and needs to be addressed by various differing theories. A teachers theoretical framework should address diversity. It should foster critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration.